



Department of Justice

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SIMPSON COUNTY MAN INDICTED FOR TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE

– Investigation by South Central Kentucky Drug Task Force

BOWLING GREEN, KY - A federal grand jury in Bowling Green returned an indictment on September 12, 2007, against **Christopher Todd Atkins**, age 29, of Franklin, Kentucky, in Simpson County, on charges of knowingly and intentionally possessing cocaine and cocaine base ("crack") with intent to distribute, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

This case arose out of an investigation by the South Central Kentucky Drug Task Force in 2006. Count 1 charges that on May 31, 2006, in Simpson County, Christopher Atkins knowingly and intentionally distributed and possessed with intent to distribute five or more grams of crack cocaine, which has a street value of approximately \$1,200 per ounce. Count 2 charges that on the same day, Atkins possessed with intent to distribute an unspecified amount of cocaine hydrochloride, which has a street value of approximately \$100 per gram.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment (since Atkins has a previous drug trafficking felony conviction), a \$4,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least six years. There is a statutory mandatory minimum penalty of at least ten years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Fentress, and it was investigated by the South Central Kentucky Drug Task Force.

Atkins is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on September 26, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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